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Rubber World

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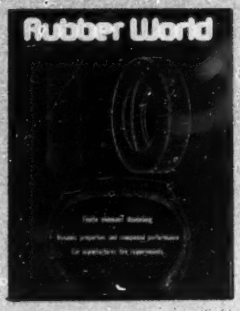

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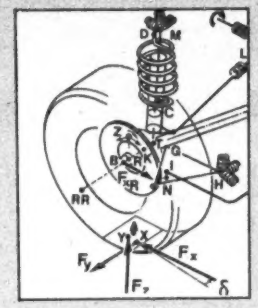

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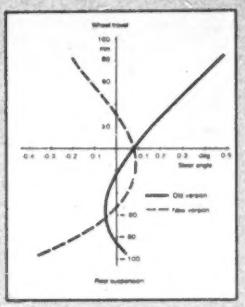

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Business Briefs

Acquisitions, expansions

Avery Inc. has agreed to buy the **Uniroyal Chemical Co.** for $760 million. Included in the sale are the rubber chemical, polyurethane, and elastomer tradenames along with the Naugatuck, CT and Geismer, LA chemical facilities, the Painesville, OH elastomers plant and plants in the U.K., Italy, Brazil, Mexico and Taiwan.

3M completed a multimillion dollar addition to the company's chemical plant at Antwerp, Belgium doubling its capacity for fluoroelastomer production. The company also announced it has concluded an agreement with **Hoechst AG**, Frankfurt, FRG under which Hoechst will manufacture certain fluoroelastomer latexes for 3M.

Du Pont announced developments in Japan, Europe and the U.S. that will boost its position as a producer of fluoreelastomers. In Japan, Du Pont-Showa Denko is constructing a precompounding facility at the Kawasaki Works near Tokyo. Du Pont de Nemours began production of its fluoroelastomer plant at the Dordrecht Works in the Netherlands which nearly doubles the Du Pont's worldwide capacity of its Viton fluoroelastomer to more than 10 million pounds per year. In the U.S. the company plans to upgrade its finishing facilities at the Chamber Works in Deepwater, NJ.

Sheller-Globe Corp. acquired the business and assets associated with **United Technologies'** extruded sponge rubber weatherstripping product line for cars and trucks. The purchase includes extrusion and related equipment from UT's St. Louis, MO plant which will be transferred to Sheller-Globe's Keokuk, IA facility.

RMA tire shipments & production report through February 1986 (figures in thousands of units)

Passenger Tires	YTD 1986	YTD 1985	% Change
Shipments			
Original Equipment	9,754	9,264	+5.29
Radial	8,157	7,740	+5.39
Replacement	19,996	19,621	+1.90
Radial	17,168	15,768	+8.88
Export	689	1,184	−41.81
Radial	503	948	−46.94
Total	20,439	30,069	−32.03
Radial	25,828	24,458	+5.61
Production	26,675	29,298	−8.95
Radial	22,447	23,138	−2.99
Ending Inventory	—	—	—
Radial	—	—	—
Truck & Bus Tires			
Shipments			
Original Equipment	1,171	1,202	−2.58
Radial	763	760	+0.39
Replacement	4,538	4,515	+0.51
Radial	2,075	1,800	+15.28
Export	223	260	−14.23
Radial	132	134	−1.49
Total	5,932	5,977	−0.75
Radial	2,970	2,694	+10.24
Production	5,597	6,460	−13.36
Radial	2,615	2,733	−4.32

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Business Briefs

Akron Chemical completed construction on a $100,000, 1,600 square foot addition at its Akron headquarters.

Parkway Products is constructing a $1.5 million, 30,000 square foot facility in Erlanger, KY to manufacture rubber products from composites and specialty elastomers.

National Starch & Chemical has acquired Adhesives Pte, of Singapore; Adhesives Sdn. Bhd of Malaysia and Adhesives Ltd. of Thailand from **ACI International, Ltd.** of Australia.

BP Chemicals is building a compounding unit at its Antwerp Belgium facility for the production of new-generation semi-conductive polyethylene compounds for wire and cable applications. The unit is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1986.

Arco Chemical will increase propylene glycol capacity in a $20 million expansion and modernization program at its Bayport, TX plant.

Union Carbide is increasing silicone surfactant and silicone polymer production capacity at its Sisterville, WV plant by 35%.

RMA rubber report through February 1986 (figures in metric tons)

	Cumulative 1986	Cumulative 1985	% Change 86 vs 85
New Rubber			
New rubber available	508,229	526,948	-3.93
Imports	181,328	186,622	-2.84
Exports	62,324	56,200	10.90
Apparent Consumption	438,661	477,003	-8.04
Natural Rubber			
Imports	140,222	145,611	-3.70
Exports	7,220	6,772	6.62
Apparent Consumption	130,884	137,843	-5.05
% Total new rubber	29.83	28.89	
Synthetic Rubber			
Production	324,901	340,326	-4.53
Imports	41,106	41,011	.23
Exports	55,104	49,428	11.48
Apparent Consumption	307,776	339,160	-9.25
% Total new rubber	70.16	71.10	
SBR			
Production	134,228	151,195	-11.22
Imports	15,023	13,667	9.92
Exports	15,549	14,266	8.99
Apparent Consumption	137,906	146,956	-6.16
Nitrile			
Production	9,375	10,138	-7.53
Imports	1,844	2,757	-33.12
Exports	1,887	1,331	41.77
Apparent Consumption	10,149	11,147	-8.95
Polybutadiene			
Production	59,877	59,362	.87
Imports	8,491	10,590	-19.82
Exports	5,032	3,791	32.74
Apparent Consumption	58,919	71,227	-17.28
Ethylene-Propylene			
Production	33,876	36,344	-6.79
Imports	627	232	170.26
Exports	6,795	4,630	40.68
Apparent Consumption	29,475	31,868	-7.51
Butyl, Polychloroprene, Polyisoprene, Silicone and other Synthetic Elastomers			
Production	87,544	83,287	5.11
Imports	15,121	13,765	9.85
Exports	25,841	25,210	2.50
Apparent Consumption	71,323	77,962	-8.52

**Latest figures available to RMA indicate INRO Stocks included in natural rubber consumption figures to be 16,952 for the year 1985, and 0 for 1986 as of February.*

Contracts, licenses

Polysar appointed **Harwick Chemical**, Akron, OH as a distributor for its synthetic rubbers in the midwest.

Standard Products, Cleveland, OH and **Nishikawa Rubber**, Hiroshima, Japan have entered a joint venture for the manufacture of sponge and dual durometer door and trunk seals in the U.S. with the parts to primarily supply the Japanese auto manufacturers in North America. Nishikawa is also licensing Standard to manufacture rubber window channels, weatherstrips and vinyl trims designed and engineered by Nishikawa for sales to Japanese

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